

# North Penn Area 5

**EPA Region 3**

Pennsylvania

Montgomery County

Montgomery Township

**EPA ID#** PAD980692693

**13th** Congressional District

**Last Update:**

August 2002

**Other Names:**

American Electronics  
Laboratories

## Current Site Status

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) completed the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study for the Site and issued a proposed plan. The proposed remedy is for three contaminated groundwater plumes at the Site. The plumes are named by the facility or area where the contamination is located. They are the BAE plume, the Stabilus plume and the Advance Lane Plume. All three plumes have contaminant levels of trichloroethelyene above the drinking water standard. The proposed remedy is to pump and treat the contaminated groundwater with an air stripper, and to perform souce control/reduction in the hot spot areas using chemical oxidation. After the comment period closes in September, 2002, EPA will decide on the remedy for the site in the fall.

## Site Description

North Penn Area 5 is one of several sites in the North Penn area of Pennsylvania that is suspected of contaminating groundwater and drinking water. The 35-acre site is located in Montgomery Township and Hatfield Township, Montgomery County. A company previously known as American Electronics Laboratories, Inc. manufactured electronic communication systems and components on the site. Investigations have found trichloroethylene (TCE), other volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which are chemical components of solvents and degreasers, and their related breakdown products in on-site and off-site wells.

### **Site Responsibility**


This site is being addressed through federal, state, and potentially responsible parties' actions.

### **NPL Listing History**

Our country's most serious, uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites can be cleaned up using federal money. To be eligible for federal cleanup money, a site must be put on the National Priorities List (NPL). This site was proposed to the NPL on January 22, 1987 and formally added to the list on March 31, 1989.

## **Threats and Contaminants**

The groundwater contains VOCs including TCE and trichloroethane (TCA) which are chemical components of solvents and degreasers. Soils on the site may contain TCE.

Contaminant descriptions and associated risk factors are available on the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry, an arm of the CDC, web site at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hazdat.html> 

## **Cleanup Progress**

In 1981, the state ordered the American Electronic Laboratories, Inc. (AEL) to remove 125 cubic yards of contaminated soil and transport them to an EPA-approved hazardous waste facility. In 1981, the company began treating contaminated groundwater by pumping on-site monitoring wells and sending the water to a nearby sewage treatment plant. In early 1986, the AEL installed a unit that uses air

stripping to evaporate VOCs from the groundwater.

EPA did a preliminary study of the nature and extent of contamination at the site. Based on this information, the EPA did an in-depth study of the groundwater, surface water and soil in 1997. EPA installed over 30 monitoring wells, conducted a well inventory for the area, sampled and analyzed water from all the new and existing residential and commercial wells in the vicinity of the site. The agency shared these results with individual property owners. The investigation also collected and analyzed soil samples from the industrial facilities which could have contributed to the groundwater contamination. These results were tabulated and shared with property/facility owners early in 1999. Additional field activities have been initiated in 2002 to provide information about data gaps identified in the review of the 1999 data. The complete groundwater investigation is being coordinated with the U.S. Geological Survey. Aquifer tests were performed in 2000 and 2002 to understand how underground water flows. This will help pinpoint where the contamination originated and where it's headed.

The feasibility study evaluated groundwater pump and treat strategies to collect, treat and contain the contaminated groundwater plume. The complete investigation and feasibility reports are now complete and available on the Agency web site.

## **Contacts**

Remedial Project Manager

Roy Schrock

215-814-3210

[schrock.roy@epa.gov](mailto:schrock.roy@epa.gov)

Community Involvement Coordinator

David Polish

215-814-3327

[polish.david@epa.gov](mailto:polish.david@epa.gov)

Governmental Liaison

Michael D'Andrea

215-814-5615

[dandrea.michael@epa.gov](mailto:dandrea.michael@epa.gov)

Public files (Administrative Record) on EPA's actions and decisions for this site can be examined at the following location:

U.S. EPA Region 3

<http://www.epa.gov/arweb/>